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Honoring the Veterans of Foreign Wars on One Hundred Years of Service to Veterans

Mr. ROTHFUS: Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay special tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) on the one hundredth anniversary of its organization in September 1914. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was also organized in 1914.

Over the past century, members of the VFW have worked tirelessly to ensure that veterans receive the respect, honor, and support they deserve.

The VFW was formed when the American Veterans of Foreign Service and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines merged during a conference at the former Schenley Hotel, which is now the William Pitt Union at the University of Pittsburgh.

A Pennsylvania Historic Society marker that sits between Soldiers and Sailors Hall and the William Pitt Union commemorating the occasion reads, "The Veterans of Foreign Wars organized September 14 – 17, 1914, at the former Schenley Hotel near here. Veterans who had served in Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and China were among its founders."


Since its founding, the VFW has done tremendous work to serve veterans and their family members. The organization played a central role in the creation of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the G.I. Bill. In addition, the VFW helped spearhead the creation of the Vietnam War, Korean War, World War II, and Women in Military Service Memorials.

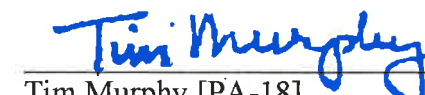
It continues this legacy of service by helping veterans and their family members secure VA benefits including disability claims and pensions. The VFW continues to play an important role as Iraq and Afghanistan veterans return home and adjust to civilian life.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join us in recognizing and expressing sincere gratitude for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the important work they have done and continue to do to stand with those who have stood for us. I thank the Speaker and I yield back.


Keith J. Rothfus [PA-12]
Member of Congress


Mike Doyle [PA-14]
Member of Congress


Bill Shuster [PA-09]
Member of Congress


Tim Murphy [PA-18]
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly [PA-03]
Member of Congress


Glenn "GT" Thompson [PA-05]
Member of Congress